



WHAT HAPPENED?

On 15th November 2020 in the early hours of the morning, the police received a 999 call from a third party stating that there was a male on the floor outside a block of flats. Officers attended and located Imran, who was unresponsive and had a 1cm puncture wound to his back, despite efforts to resuscitate Imran at the Northern General Hospital Emergency Department (ED) he sadly died as a result of his injuries. CCTV footage taken from the scene showed him leaving his brother's (Hassan's) address, taking a few steps, and slumping to the ground.

Hassan was arrested and charged with murder. In July 2021 he was found guilty at Sheffield Crown Court and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The events described above mirror an incident that took place in August 2018 where Imran attended a third party's address in the early hours covered in blood stating that he had been stabbed by his brother. He was taken to the ED via an ambulance where he then said he had been assaulted by an unknown male whilst getting out of a taxi, staff in the ED had no reason to question this explanation. Imran had injuries caused by a knife to his lower back and chest and had 'slash' wounds to his left arm and wrist. When police officers spoke to him, Imran refused to answer any questions about the incident and did not wish to make a statement to the police. Hassan was arrested and gave a 'no comment' interview. Due to a lack of evidence the investigation was not taken to the Crown Prosecution service and there were no charges brought against Hassan.

Between January 2018 and November 2020 there were eleven separate police incidents which concerned Hassan and Imran, two of these incidents also involved their mother and father. A number of these were alleged stabbings and there were injuries to both brothers, on one occasion Hassan presented in ED with a dislocated finger after 'playfighting' with his brother, this was not confirmed to be Imran. On another occasion, Hassan sustained a 4cm laceration to his chin on the left side which necessitated ED treatment.

The brothers first came to the police's attention in 2004 having allegedly committed a robbery, Imran was 12 at the time and Hassan was 14, they went on to lead difficult and transient lives. Both were engaged in serious violence and criminality and there was evidence of drug and alcohol misuse.

Both brothers were also alleged perpetrators of domestic abuse towards women. On several occasions Imran refused to talk to professionals and both brothers provided ambiguous or false information and their contact overall with agencies was irregular over time. Both brothers engaged when there was a material need (i.e., housing) but engagement was inconsistent and not sustained.

WHAT DID IT TELL US?

Several agencies did not have any awareness or understanding of the abuse perpetrated by Hassan towards Imran. There were no DASH risk assessments completed so the nature of the relationship and associated risk to Imran was not consistently identified by agencies. Therefore, adult family violence (AFV) was not considered. Information was not routinely shared and there were missed opportunities for multi-agency working.

Although there is limited information about Imran and Hassan's childhood and formative years, Zettler et al (2018)¹ highlight a relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and juvenile offending. The review highlighted the possibility that the brothers had experienced emotional trauma or other distressing or disturbing events in their formative years.

Imran was an Asian British male, and it is possible that the events described were a source of dishonour and shame for the family in the eyes of the community, this would have been a barrier that prevented him from seeking help and support.

There was good practice identified, including SYP investigating the majority of the incidents between the brothers, despite the lack of co-operation of both Imran and Hassan. There were examples of good multi agency working evident at MARAC (in relation to domestic abuse perpetrated by Hassan to his female partner). However, the DHR found that practice often took a reactive, rather than proactive approach to the risk presented by both brothers and a range of learning points were identified for agencies to improve the support for vulnerable people who are subjected to adult family violence.

WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

DACT to review the support available to male victims of domestic abuse, especially those with protected characteristics to ensure specialist, independent support is accessible to victims who may be reluctant to come forward.	All agencies to recognise the importance of recording ethnicity (& other protected characteristics). All agencies to provide guidance & training around recording & sharing information to staff.	All agencies to recognise the importance of multi-agency working & follow agreed policies around information sharing to assess risk.	Ensure that the lessons learned about AFV in the Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (Sharp-Jeffs and Kelly, 2016) DHR Case Analysis on Adult Family Violence ² are shared as part of professional development strategies to support staff.	All agencies to support professionals around identifying and supporting victims who may be experiencing controlling behaviour from a family member.	All agencies to consider the evidence of the links between adverse childhood experiences, family violence & youth offending & put in place interventions to mitigate the risk
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1. ¹ Zettler I, et al (2018) 'The dark core of personality' [The dark core of personality - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31811111/)

² https://coercivecontrol.ripfa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Standing_together_dom_homicide_review_analysis.pdf

